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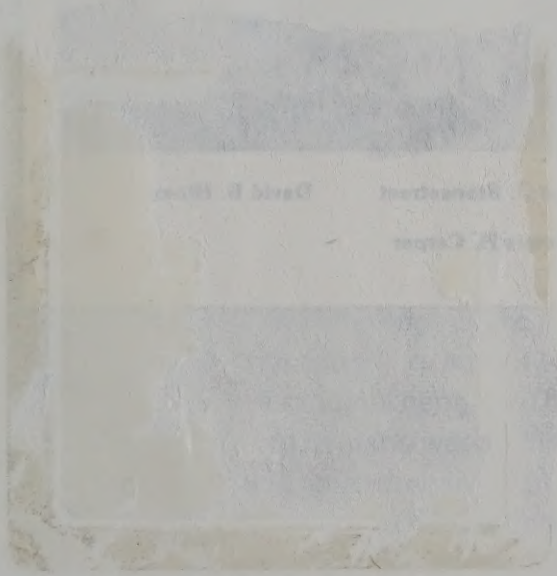
City National Bank

"The Bank With The Answers"

Celebrating 75 Years of Service to Auburn

200 South Van Buren Street Auburn, Indiana



The Cover:

The cover pictures a wall mural at the bank, the work of artist Jeanne Cassady. She is the owner of the Studio Gallery in Auburn, and her shop displays many of her own works as well as hand crafted originals, pottery and jewelry.

Jeanne has attended the Chicago Art Institute, studied under a number of artists and also at the University of Georgia and the Erie, Pa., art schools. She has depicted many of our landmarks, and has proven herself a talented professional and an asset to her adopted Auburn.

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Warren G. Sunday John H. Hines Henry M. Shook Robert J. Stonestreet David B. Hines

Elizabeth A. Weinert Glenn T. Rieke (Chairman) James H. Carper

It was the wish of the board of directors to commemorate the occasion of our founding, seventy-five years ago, by recalling events and feelings of our mutual heritage. The articles were written as a series of newpaper ads, and demand was such that we have printed this booklet. We present this to you in appreciation of your patronage, and with the pledge that we will continue to be *The Bank With The Answers* to all your financial needs, and will faithfully serve this community as our forefathers have done.

Dear Olde Days 1902-1910

It was a splendid time in a wonderful country at the turn of the century when our forefathers met in Davenport's Store Building in Auburn to form the City National Bank. The date: August 2, 1902. It was a time of optimism and confidence. Auburn was bustling. People talked of the new "horseless carriage" being built in town. Life was exciting!

These forefathers had a dream of a new kind of bank — one the ordinary man could count on in good times and bad for business know-how and integrity. They gathered the required cash of $50,000 and filed with the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D.C. for authority to organize the bank. The venture was approved. Those early banking pioneers were: William H. McIntyre, Timothy J. Knisely, Franklin Davenport, Francis M. Hines, M.D., and Isaac M. Zent.

There was ample reason for high hopes and general optimism. Auburn, center of DeKalb County with a population of 25,711 was by the 1900's an industrialized community. Its most important product was buggies and its principal companies were Eckhart, Kiblinger and Zimmerman. Not without cause, Auburn people took pride in the community. The town had nearly everything: nine churches, three school houses, one large opera house, five hotels, four dry goods stores, eight groceries, three banks, three bakeries, five restaurants, three show stores, three hardware stores, five meat markets, five clocksmiths, two lumber yeards, two telegraph and express offices, four livery and feed barns, five clothing stores, electric light plant owned by the city, perfect sewer system, paved roads, three railroads, one sanitary bath establishment, six saloons, eleven ministers, ten physicians, two dentists, thirteen attorneys, five carriage factories, one gas engine plant and foundry, two grain elevators, two saw mills, three plumbing companies, two cigar factories, one cement block factory, one marble shop, one band of thirty five pieces, one military company, and ten secret orders. A very civilized country town!

Time passed, and the businesses grew and prospered. Soon Auburn was sending to every state in the union the handiwork of her people. These enterprises were the pride of the citizens. They were purely Auburn institutions and Auburn capital only was employed. City National took part in much of the financial planning. We served them all — "the butcher, the baker, the buggy maker". Everyone could find work here. No one got rich, but no one was really poor, either.

Nationally, it was the time of Teddy Roosevelt, the Gibson Girl, William Jennings Bryan, the Model T Ford, the Panama Canal, flying machines and gas balloons. It was the age of innocence. Pretty girls and their fellows sang to the tunes of "In the Good Old Summertime" and "Sweet Adeline".

The Auburn Courier in 1902 described DeKalb County as a place where "universal prosperity, peace and plenty is the lot of the humblest as well as the rich who engage in push, pluck and perserverance". The county produced more wheat, corn, oats, potatoes and clover seed according to its area in 1902 than any other county in the state. Most people automatically assumed that all problems would be solved in the normal course of events; meanwhile, the important thing was for a man to get ahead, to earn maximum return from bountiful opportunities. Life for Auburn citizens from 1902 to 1910 was mellow and quite secure, full of vigor and fascination. All they had to do was go out and live it.

And live it they did! Factory men in Auburn worked hard, averaging eight hours a day, six days a week in the plants, for a salary from $12 to $15 a week. Bread was 5 cents a loaf, milk 7 cents a quart: a good meal could be purchased at Maze's Cafe for 25 cents. Families were thrifty, most managed to save some money each week. The men played hard too. Sunday afternoon would find them taking on a neighboring town's baseball team at Madden's field across the creek. The Cincinnati Reds arrived on the train one hot June afternoon in 1906 for an exhibition game, and were defeated by the Auburn team, 6-5!

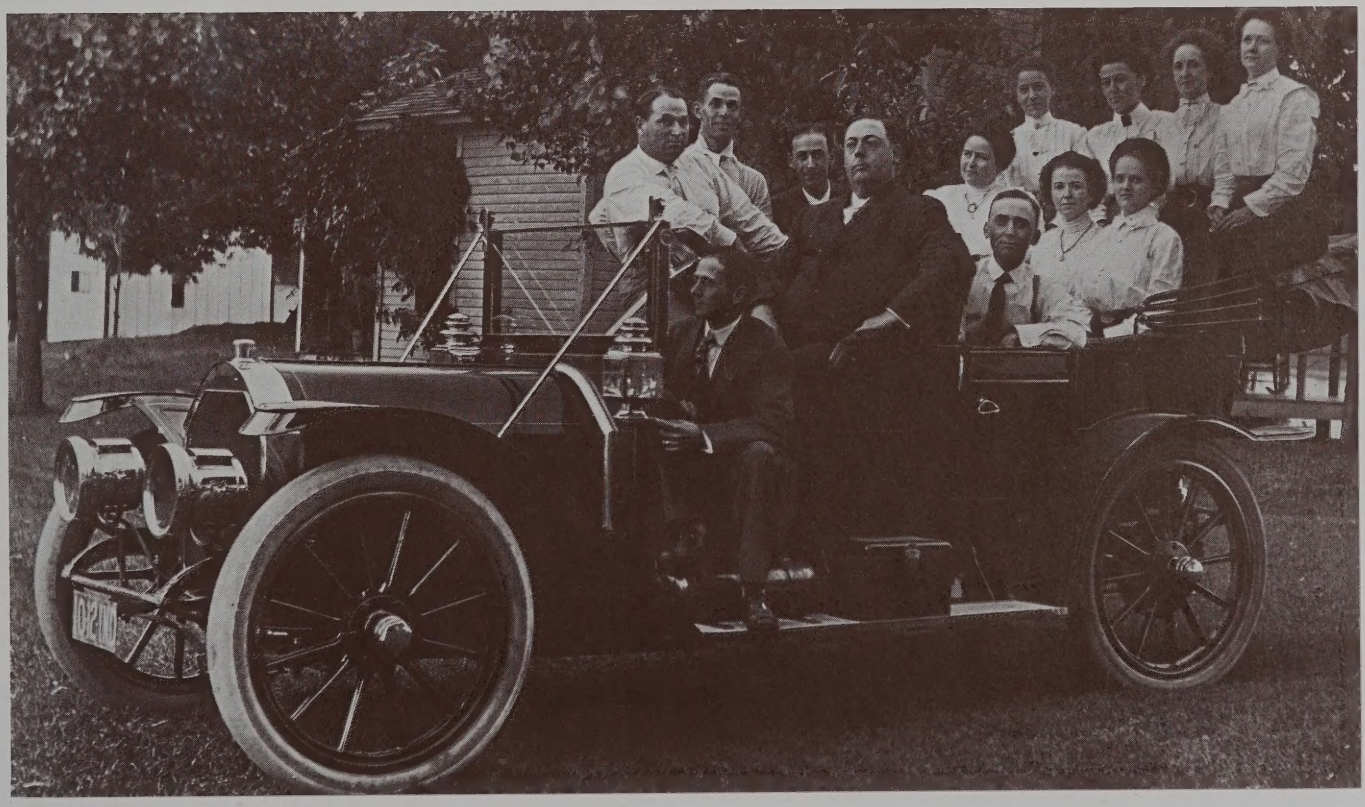
Politics were lively. William Jennings Bryan, the populist Democrat presidential candidate spoke here with compelling oratory in 1900, his famous "Cross of Gold" speech: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold." The crowd cheered and cheered. They too wanted the currency based on more available silver, not gold. A Democrat, Bryan won the county, but lost the election.

The Eckharts had begun experimenting with an automobile in 1900. They organized the Auburn Automobile Company that year and began manufacturing the Auburn in 1903. In 1907 The Kiblinger Company, maker of buggies and carriages, offered an automobile at $250, stating that "anyone who can afford a horse and buggy can better afford to own a new Kiblinger Automobile." In 1909 the name was changed to the W. H. McIntyre Company, and the company offered a full line of trucks, touring cars and runabouts. Early Auburns and McIntyres were classified as "high-wheelers", essentially a stock buggy with a tiller or simple steering wheel, a one or two cylinder motor and planitary transmission. Although early automobile companies were abundant and competition keen throughout the country, McIntyre and Auburn sales soared. The machines that were to transform America took hold, and the possibilities were heady to contemplate. The popularity of the highwheelers declined by 1910 as roads and technology improved. Auburn auto makers were readying new machines to meet the challenge of the next decade.

City National Bank met the challenges of its first decade. It helped keep the community lifeblood — money — flowing. It was The Bank With The Answers.

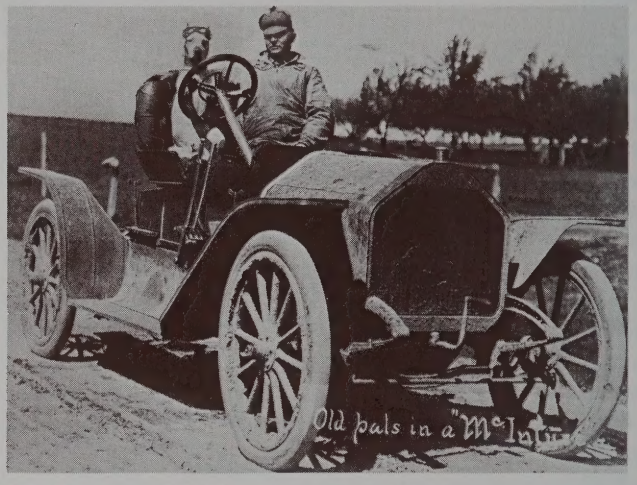
McIntyre 1908

Auburn 1905

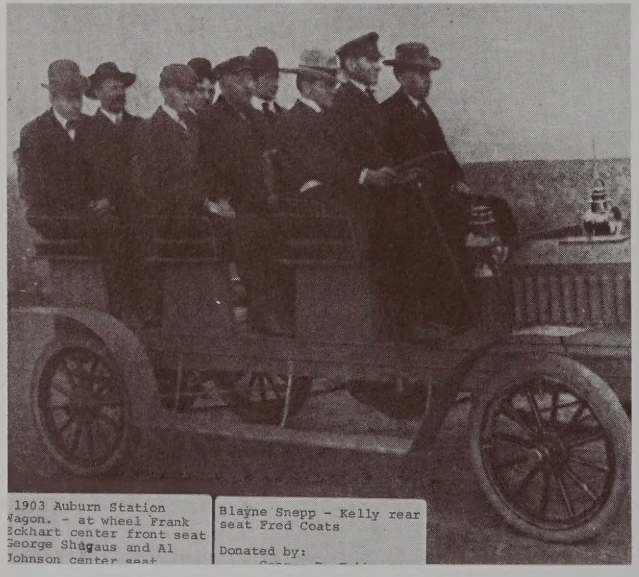


Auburn 1910

McIntyre Highwheel 1907



McIntyre 1909



Auburn Station Wagon 1903

McIntyre Truck 1910
driver John McIntyre

Arrival of Auburn car from Chicago to Auburn 1905

Original Experimental Kiblinger (McIntyre) 1899

McIntyre 1910

Auburn Forever With Honest Endeavor 1910-1920

As the second decade of the century began Auburn embraced the idealistic goals of the times with ferver. The Commercial Club's slogan "Auburn Forever with Honest Endeavor" was subscribed to quite seriously. The town was off and running; economic growth continued at a quickened pace. City National grew with the town; it showed loans of $217,461 in 1911 to various businesses and individuals. Property valuation in Auburn was $7,552,431; the Auburn post office did $63,042 business that year.

Auburn was the kind of a town that represented an American Dream, an ideal community, the wonder of visiting city cousins. If you remember hearing your grandfather talk about how the area was when he was young, you'll remember his sense of elation of living in a happy time. This was a small town that provided freedom, a certain openness and understanding. Citizens felt pride, and though they worked hard, they saw that work in a different light: they were all getting ahead, they were recognized individuals. At City National Bank Auburnites found service, dignity and individual answers to financial problems.

Saturday night was big around the square. The City National and stores were open. The men gathered and talked of some aspect of farming, the new and exciting automobiles, and what was happening in the plants . . . that was the common ground.

In 1914 there were 466 automobiles and 8,064 horses owned in DeKalb County. Anyone who did not have an automobile yearned for the time they could afford one. People flocked to the showrooms to admire the new McIntyres and Auburns, but most people still only went as lookers. These early cars were strange looking creations, all angles and bolts, but they whisked with ease over the muddy, rock strewn byways that criss-crossed DeKalb County. By the end of the decade, the autos made in Auburn were rattling all over Indiana, transforming a horse and buggy land into a mobile country of people with places to go.

Everyone sensed how "well" the town was doing. Charles Eckhart, president of Eckhart Carriage Co. and the Auburn Auto Company donated funds to the city for the Eckhart Library in 1911, the Library Fountain in 1912, the YMCA in 1914, and Eckhart Park in 1915. The old Court House was torn down in 1911, and replaced by the new $300,000 Court House in 1914. "Birth of a Nation" was the first movie at the opening of the Court Theatre in 1916, ushering in an era of the motion picture as a way of life.

Suppliers were attracted to town. The Double Fabric Tire Company, manufacturers of narrow, high pressure tires for the early autos employed 100 men. There was a gasoline engine manufacturing company here; Auburn Foundry, maker of grey iron castings, began in 1914. Technology improved rapidly.

In 1910 Auburn Auto offered a four cylinder, 30 horsepower, two forward speeds, priced at $1,150-$1,650 available in touring, roadster or delivery wagon models. By 1912 the six cylinder, model 6-50 with 135 inch wheelbase, 37 inch tire was advertised as "The satisfying car" at $3,000.

During its prime, the W. H. McIntyre Co. was the largest of Auburn's early auto companies. It occupied five separate buildings and employed hundreds of people. McIntyre offered a four cylinder pneumatic tired car in a variety of body styles in 1911. Prices began at $1,350, and thirty-five horsepower motor was standard. By 1913 the public was demanding bigger cars and engines so the company introduced six cylinder model which sold for $1,485. The Imp Cycle Car was introduced in 1914, the original "compact" car. The popularity was short lived, and the company closed its doors in May, 1915.

The most frequent means of out-of-town transportation in this era was still the inter-urban, the electric railway linking Auburn, Waterloo, Garrett, Kendallville, Fort Wayne and all stops in between. It departed every half hour and made the trip to Waterloo in ten minutes and Fort Wayne in an hour. It carried forty passengers, and cost 25 cents to ride to Fort Wayne.

For summer entertainment there was Chataqua, a touring company which set up tents each summer from 1910 to 1915 at "Gas City" on the east side, so named because of the gas lighted streets. It was a social blast. The typical show might begin with a rousing band, offer a series of opera divas, orchestras, magicians, yodelers, crooners, red Indians, and soar to a climax with a lecturer's passionate delivery of some social issue. Stage shows from Chicago and Indianapolis appeared weekly at Henry's Opera House throughout the winter, with seats priced at 35 cents and boxes for $1.50. Band Concerts were held at the Court House Square in the summer, by the city band of thirty-five pieces, whose salaries were paid from a one-cent park musician levy in the city taxes. On Sundays, young men would rent a horse and buggy from one of the four livery barns for $2.00 and take their young ladies to a country picnic.

The men also found some recreation in Ollie Redmond's pool hall, much to the consternation of the ladies, who viewed this as a "den of iniquity." Ollie made the mistake of letting some of the young boys play pool, and the city was pressured into closing him down.

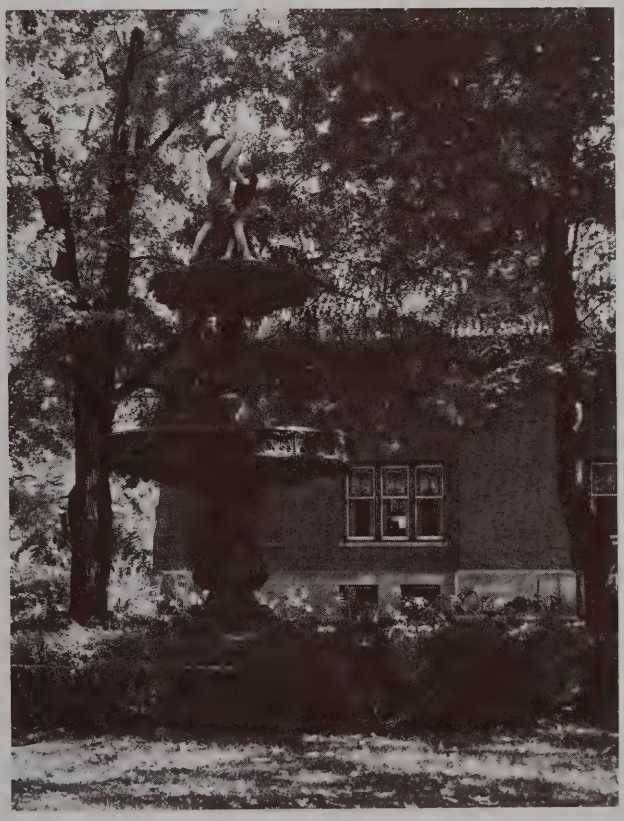
Wars have a way of changing the climate. Our entry into World War I did just that. In 1916 War was declared on April 6: a few days later a recruiting station was opened on the Court Square, with 49 men enlisting the first two days. Company K left Auburn September 10 with 115 men ready to "Save The World for Democracy." DeKalb County eventually had 700 men in service. Serious coal famines existed, there were meatless, wheatless and heatless days observed by local Americans. Sugar rationing was enforced, the study of German was eliminated from the Auburn Schools.

With the war's end, disillusionment set in nationally and at home. Isolationism vs. the League of Nations, immigration and immigrants' labor, labor unrest, the Ku Klux Klan, all became issues that divided 100 percent patriotic Americans into less trusting groups. There were a lot of problems to be solved in the twenties.

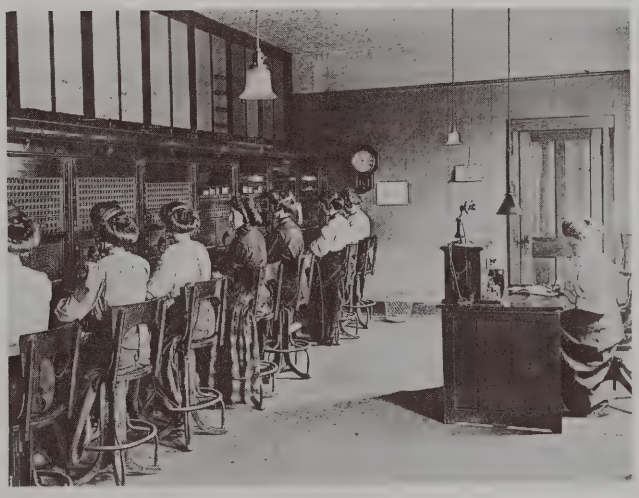
Young Ladies at the
Court House Fountain

Bank Exterior

Bank Interior



Library Fountain 1912

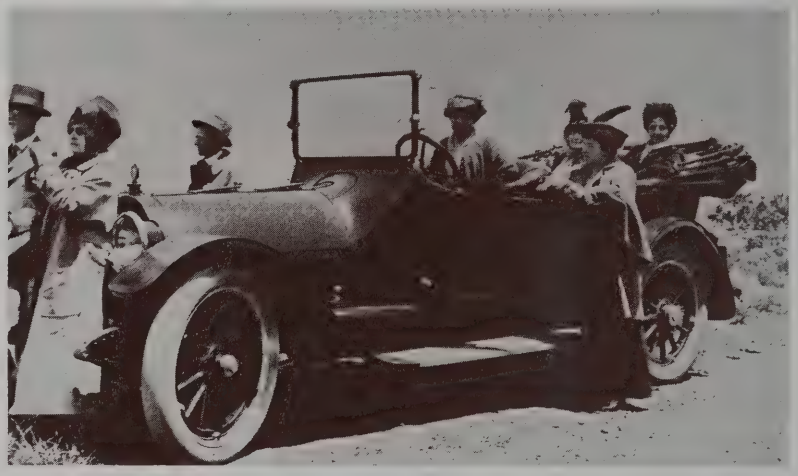


Telephone Company was
Located above the Bank

Eckhart Library built in 1911

Young girls at Cedar Creek

McIntyre 1912



Auburn 1915

McIntyre Imp at Cedar Creek 1915

New Court House 1914

Jazz Comes to Town 1920-1930

The twenties were notable for fads and movements. There was temperance, women's rights, the Ku Klux Klan. One of the national crazes took Auburn youth by storm . . . jazz!

The spirit of frivolity gripped them. The fun and excitement suited them. Young ladies cut their hair at ear level, hemmed dresses to the knee, wore rolled-down hose. Their slick-haired boy friends dressed in puffy white pants and sometimes a raccoon coat. "Our children" began staying out late, dancing the Charleston at dance halls like the Midway Gardens on the back road to Garrett and the Silver Moon north of town. Transportation was by the inter-urban, or, by car, the Kelso Gardens with its fancy glass dance floor at Lake Gage, and Palty-town at Lake James. Great fun! Name bands like Ted Weems. Red Nichols and John Mitchell played at these halls every night but Monday until 2 a.m.

The "flappers" wore an air half of earnestness, and half of sauciness, which was the fashion. At first the daring clothes and sensual jazz drew a lot of critical opinions from the older generation, but Auburn young people didn't care, they were "modern." The oldsters soon joined them. There were a lot of elegant parties on Main Street, many celebrities were entertained.

It was a time of daring-do and cynicism. The Volstead Act, making it a federal crime to possess alcoholic beverages, had a strange psychological effect. People who seldom used the stuff began to drink. Ladies got into the act for the first time socially. And some of the town's most respected gentlemen began carrying hip flasks and visiting bootleggers.

The jauntiest of the young men's groups that got together for fun was the Hickory Club. It began in 1924 with twenty young men who rented club rooms above Bishops Confectionary. As this group grew older, they formed the nucleus of Auburn's Rotary Club.

The Ku Klux Klan in 1923 had 2200 members in the county, 700 in Auburn. Members would later be ashamed of the national leadership, and the Klan disbanded.

Most citizens never tasted a drop of bathtub gin or home brew, and obeyed the law. Their lives were greatly improved by the most spectacular economic boom the area ever had. Wages for a skilled worker in the local plants swelled 75 percent from 1920 to 1929. Farmers also got good return from bounteous crops on their rich farm lands. Wives splurged on silk hose and white gloves; men bought that longed for Auburn roadster. The assessor listed for taxation in 1928 5,206 autos and 4,158 horses.

Downtown businesses expanded. Schaab Brothers Department Store ordered more high fashion clothes and fine items for the home; in 1927 they enlarged the store by buying out the Kuhlman Department Store next door. Everyone was spending and the economy spiraled upward at a good clip. The merchants around the square were happy and prosperous. City National's deposits leaped and people also borrowed money to buy cars, pianos, refrigerators and washing machines.

Auburn built the McIntosh High School in 1920, named for the town's Civil War Sage "Old Mr. McIntosh," and Alumni Gym in 1925. The Auburn Country Club opened its doors in 1923.

Townspeople found escape and fantasy at the movies. In 1927 the Court Theater was remodeled with $75,000 improvements, including a $16,000 pipe organ. The first talkie, Al Jolson in The Jazz Singer, came to the Court Theater in 1929. From that time on, the movies were it, and the young copied the fads of stars like Joan Crawford and Rudolph Valentino.

Auburnites enjoyed their prosperity. They took trips to distant places in their very dependable cars. The businessman was king, and salesmanship was art. Men joined the Rotary Club, and the Lions Club was founded in 1928, which proclaimed the community's virtues and shared fellowship.

The Commercial Club, spurred by Charlie and Bill Schaab, promoted the town. It brought the Riekes who had energy and lots of engineering ideas but little capital, to Auburn in 1925 by offering to build them a small factory at a cost of $5,000, to be repaid over a three year period.

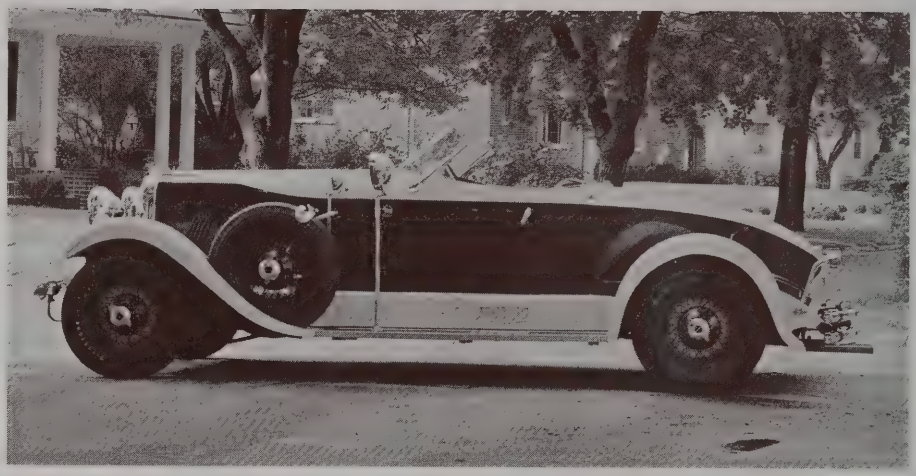
During this affluent time, City National Bank was growing and maturing. It was the hub of the downtown stores and attracted people from all over the area who depended upon the bank's expanded services and business exchange.

Control of the Auburn Auto had been sold in 1919 to a syndicate of Chicago financiers headed by William Wrigley Jr. of Juicy Fruit and Chicago Cub fame at a reported million dollars. To perk up lagging sales they brought super-salesman E. L. Cord to Auburn in 1924. Under his promotional presidency sales doubled in 1925, and then by 1926 doubled again. Production was up. A total of 3,388 Auburn cars were manufactured in the first three months of 1926, compared with 836 in that period in 1925. Auburn rose from fortieth to eleventh in 1928 among American auto exporters. In the late twenties Auburn offered a fast and flashy car at prices that could not be equalled. The 1929 $2,000 Boattail Speedster, clocked at 108 m.p.h., greatly enhanced the firm's reputation. Over 22,000 Auburns were sold in 1929, representing a 1000 percent increase over sales of five years previous. In 1929, one dollar of every five that consumers spent went for autos and their upkeep. Auburnites hoped it would go on forever.

In far away New York, however, prices on the New York Stock Exchange were quivvering. On Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929, the stock market plunged. Auburn Auto dropped sixty points that day. The Great Depression had begun. It would tax the strength and imagination of the town's industrialists and her people. We would survive the desperate years better than most aresa. But things would never be the same.

1921 Auburn Beauty Six $2000

Holben-Trindale 1929 Tow Truck



1928 Auburn Boattail Speedster $2000

Inter Urban

Old Auburn High School

City National-Schaab's Store 1928

Harrison School

First Rieke Building 1924

1924-1925 Sectional Winning Team

Inter Urban

The last of the Classics 1930-1940

In addition to giving the city a namesake automobile of excellence, and exciting times to recall with pride, the Auburn Auto in the early thirties provided its city one last gift — insulation from the dreadful depression that was wearing down the nation.

The crash of the stock market in 1929 brought mass unemployment. By 1931 the nation had eight million jobless. In Detroit discouraged men and women stood in breadlines and charities ran soup kitchens for hungry thousands. Auburn was hardly touched. Sales in 1931 were 28,103 cars and profit of $3,500,000 equalled peak year 1929! One thousand new dealers entered the fold, and Auburn climbed from twenty-third to thirteenth place in retail sales. In late 1931, E. L. Cord, empire builder who had progressed Horatio Alger style from garage mechanic to Auburn's presidency, in a nationwide auto ad proclaimed: "Times of adversity create opportunities for those who take advantage of them. Managers and workmen of Cord Companies have been too busy 'sawin' wood' to join the calamity chorus." He concluded with slogans of "look up, get to work and live."

By this time the Cord empire had greatly expanded to include Checker Cab, ship building and aviation. Cord's interest in aviation led to the building of the first Auburn airport on the Ashley Road in 1928. Auburn Auto built their new $350,000 administration building in 1930.

Effects of the depression were felt by 1932, when only 11,000 cars were produced, and a net loss of $974,751 was reported. In both 1933 and 1934 about 6,000 cars were made. By 1935, the Auburn Company was in deep trouble. Cord left the country. Roy Faulkner, president, brought in August Duesenberg and Gordon Beuhrig to redesign the line. They designed and built what is considered the finest of the American classics, and sold them at prices that could not be equalled elsewhere. So cheaply, in fact, that the company lost hundreds of dollars on each of the famed boattail speedsters 851 selling at $2,245. It was hoped this star model would pull buyers into the showrooms. The promotion worked: sales of the less rakish models selling around $795 rose twenty per cent. Still no profit was realized that year. The pride of the 1936 line was the 852 four door convertible at a price of $1,800. From January to October of 1936, only 4,830 Auburns were produced. They were to be the last.

Townspeople were shocked at the demise of the Auburn, which had employed 700 persons at its peak. Some men, millionaires on paper, were nearly penniless when the value of the auto's securities sank.

Gloom descended. While industries like Auburn Foundry, Auburn Rubber and Messenger Corporation maintained continuous employment, money was very tight. City National had little to loan. Elsewhere banks folded. We survived.

People made do with what they had. They discovered that some of the best things were indeed free. For entertainment, friends were invited to pop corn, work jig saw puzzles, play Chinese checkers. Bridge became the rage. Time was spent listening to the radio for Amos and Andy, Kate Smith, Gangbusters, and Your Hit Parade. The box was a free ticket to adventure, laughter and music. Old things like horse-shoe pitching and front porch sitting were revived. There were more church socials and concerts on the Court Square. Tom Proctor's Fife and Drum Corps piped music on summer nights, which could be heard all over town. It was a cheering, hopeful sound. The city council reduced the Auburn tax rate for 1938 to 31 cents on a $100 valuation. The rate was 79 cents in 1937.

There were bargains everywhere. A haircut and shave at the local barbershops cost 30 cents, breakfast at Dan Herricks Restaurant of two eggs with potatoes and coffee was 15 cents, milk was 8 cents a quart. At Schaab's Department Store, typical prices were wool dresses, $1.95, men's suits, $10, double bed sheets, 67 cents, bath towels, 24 cents, wool blankets, $1. At Gerig's Furniture an eight piece dining room set sold for $59.50, three piece bedroom set at $49.50. Gas at Mendenhall's Garage was 18 cents a gallon. There was the big 5 cent double dip ice cream cone at Muzillo's Confectionary. A modern six room house sold for $2,000.

The hard times brought desperadoes to town. Notorious bank thief, John Dillinger, robbed the Auburn Police Department of guns and ammunition. Following his arrest, police found a map showing location of the city hall, DeKalb County banks, and proposed getaway route. City National Bank had a close call!

Government programs pumped money into the area with old age assistance, agricultural programs, and public works projects which built the Legion in Auburn, the swimming pool in Garrett, Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon, the Auburn Sewage Disposal Plant, and sixty miles of new highways and bridges in the county.

The town cheered Don Lash, local boy who became the greatest combination distance runner this country had ever developed, four times national AAU Cross Country Champion. In 1936 he was honored by the Hickory Club prior to leaving for Berlin to compete in the Olympics. Lash returned in 1938 for a cross country exhibition at the dedication of Earl Carr Field.

Business began picking up. Town fathers were successful in bringing the Atwood Vacuum Machine Company, later to be Dana Corporation, here in 1937, and the Warner Automotive parts Corporation in 1938. These new plants expanded a great deal in the next few years to fulfill government contracts as the nation provided the allies with material support for the growing conflict in Europe.

The Christmas Court House was decorated by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in years 1936-40. It was a beautiful sight, to be remembered by Auburn boys serving their country in far away places during the war.

Auburn Airport 1932

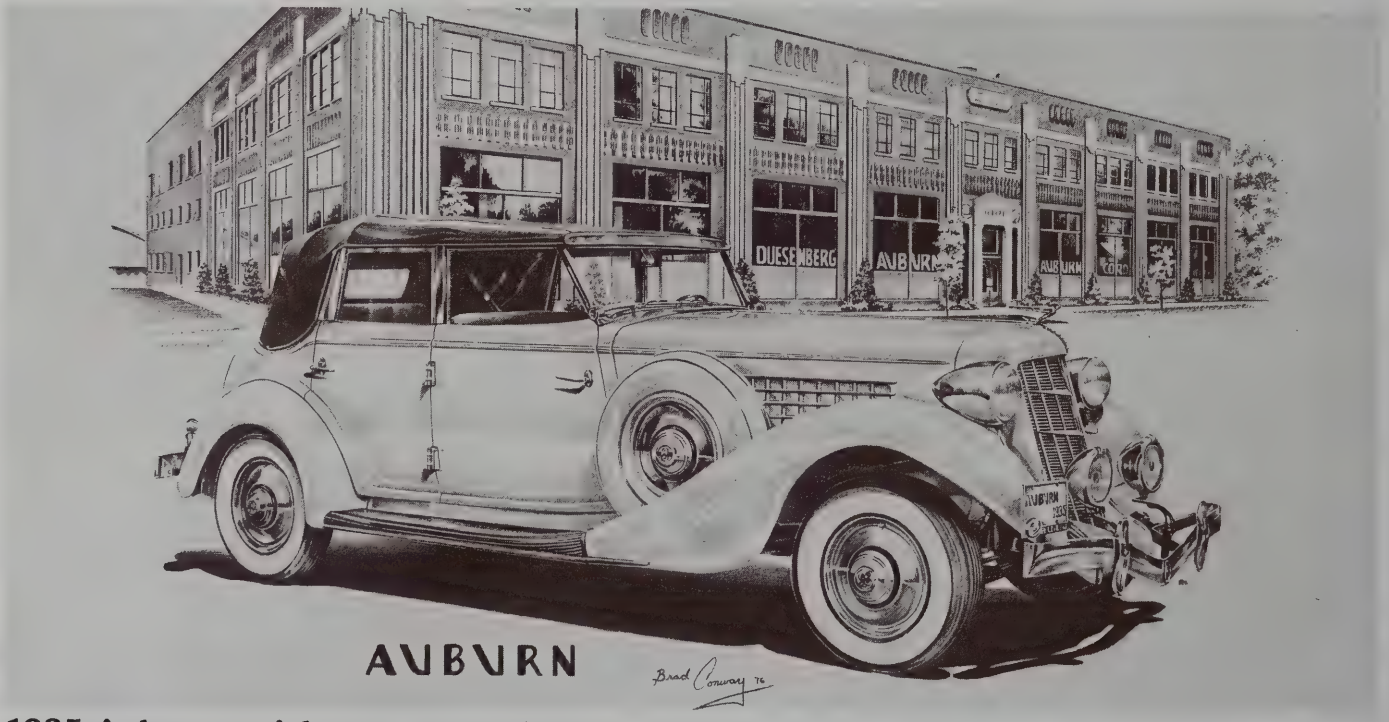
1935 Eight Coupe

Post Office 1930

Auburn Fire Department 1938

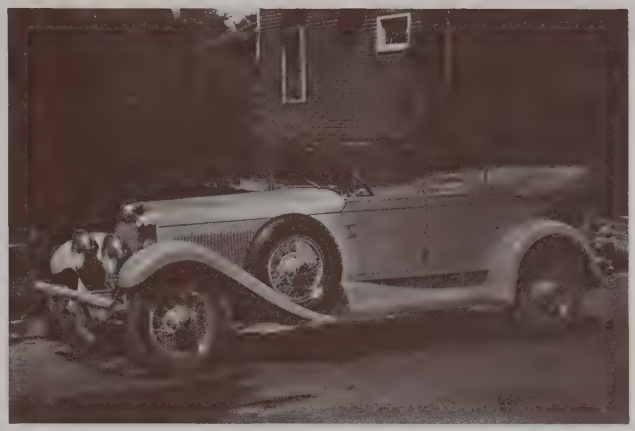
1931 Auburn

Don Lash wins Cross Country Title
For Indiana University 1936

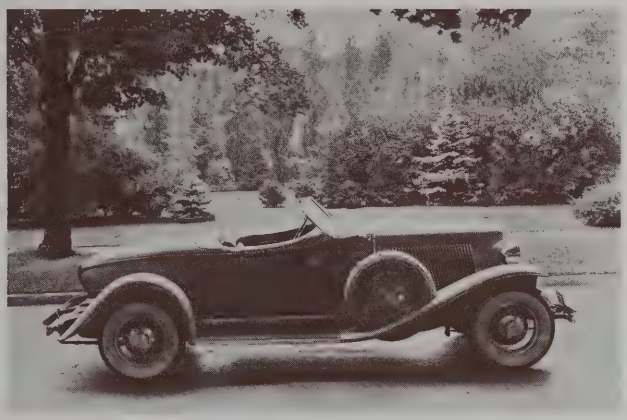


1935 Auburn at Administration building

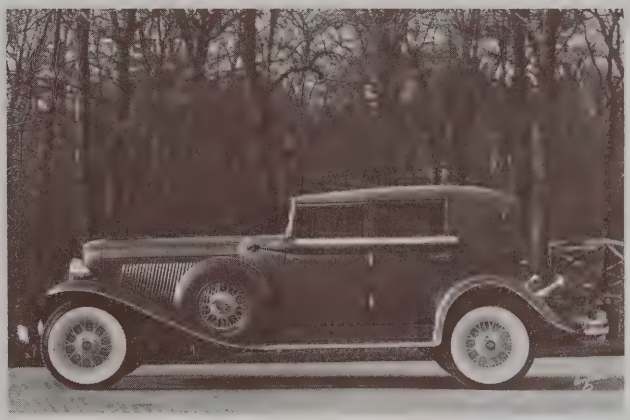
Roy Faulkner, president and Abe Jenkins, test driver, 1935



1933 Auburn



1931 Auburn



1933 Auburn Phaeton $1850

Christmas 1937

Hubbard's Drug Store 1938

Heroic Times 1940-1950

A group of townspeople on their lunch hour stood around the radio at Stackhouse's Restaurant on Eighth Street listening to the President in an electric moment: "Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy . . ." We were at war. Several people, stunned by the attack on Pearl Harbor, shook fists in agreement: "We will triumph, so help us God."

Thus began one of the most heroic periods in the nation's history, an earnest and courageous time in Auburn, where we lost sons and years, but turned to with determination to win the war by gigantic effort on the home front, in the factories, with our hearts ever tuned to far away places where battles were being fought.

The town factories made a speedy conversion from the defense program to the victory program including a seven day work week for some. Auburn Mfg. Co. (later Dana) made clutches for Jeeps, Rieke's Blitz can closures carried vital gasoline and oil, Warner made axles, gears and shafts for the big machinery, Auburn Foundry made shipboard cooking ranges and artillery fuses, and Auburn Rubber Company's total production went into a variety of war products.

Every morning for four years, the first thing just about everyone in Auburn did was to grab the newspaper to find out who was ahead in the war. The early days of the war were discouraging for Americans. Guam, Wake, Hong Kong, Borneo, Singapore, and the surrender of the Phillipines were agonizing. Even more so were the hometown casualities and injuries — a trickle at first, and then more. Prayer vigils were held at the churches. The first war casualty was gunner's mate John Deetz at Pearl Harbor. We were to lose 97 more DeKalb County boys.

There were not many young men on the streets; most males between 18 and 36 had discovered in their morning mail the fateful "Greeting." A War Production Group went house to house urging women to take jobs in the plants. Many did.,Women stood side by side with men on the assembly lines, turning out the vital supplies with which we ultimately won the war. In the process they helped win the coveted Army-Navy "E" pennant for excellence in meeting awesome production quotas. The first Army-Navy "E" was awarded to Rieke Corporation in 1942 in an impressive ceremony.

The war was also fought at home with War Bonds. The Foley Pattern Company was the first industry in the county to receive the Minute Man Flag awarded for achieving a total of ten per cent of earnings in bonds. Ultimately, the people in DeKalb County bought more than $15,500,000 worth of bonds, handled by the City National and other area banks. School children purchased savings stamps of 25 cents a week or more, and turned the stamp books in to the City National Bank for a bond when they had saved $18.75 worth. The school scrap drive in 1942 was a huge success. Some 17,000 auto license plates were collected, along with tons of things like a horse drawn buggy, a rowing machine, even an old gear box Rieke had buried was dug up for the scrap pile.

Civilians struggled with shortages of gas, food, and clothing. They had little books of stamps issued by the government which were necessary for nearly all processed food and gas. The average driver received an "A" card, limiting him to three gallons of gas a week. In town most people walked. Everything we liked to eat — meat, coffee, butter, cheese, sugar was rationed by a point system that drove housewives crazy. There were "pointless" meals and recipes, mostly disasters. A pound of hamburger took 7 points, butter 16 points, canned peaches 16, carrots, 18. "Victory Gardens" became popular. Volunteers joined the Civil Defense Corp.; Auburn was the first test blackout area in Indiana in 1942.

The week after Pearl Harbor, the Red Cross Chapter, headed by Jessie Baxter, issued a call for volunteers to roll bandages. Many rolled for thousands of hours, and also served on the blood bank programs.

Mail Call was vital, and Auburnites wrote and wrote. The Auburn Post Office did the largest business in it's history in 1943. That Christmas 7500 packages were sent from the Auburn Post Office to men overseas.

Auburn's servicemen were held in great esteem. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the history of human conflict have so many owed so much to so few." Tales of our heroes were printed in the Evening Star, cut out and hung on youngsters' bedroom walls and at school. One of these heroes was Capt. Howard Thimlar," a plain American guy, who became the hottest bomber pilot in the Air Force." He flew more combat missions in the superfortress "Indiana" than any other B-29 airman in the Pacific. "Hod" received commendation for participation in the history-making 15 hour incendiary raids on Japan known as "The Blitz" which helped bring the war to an end.

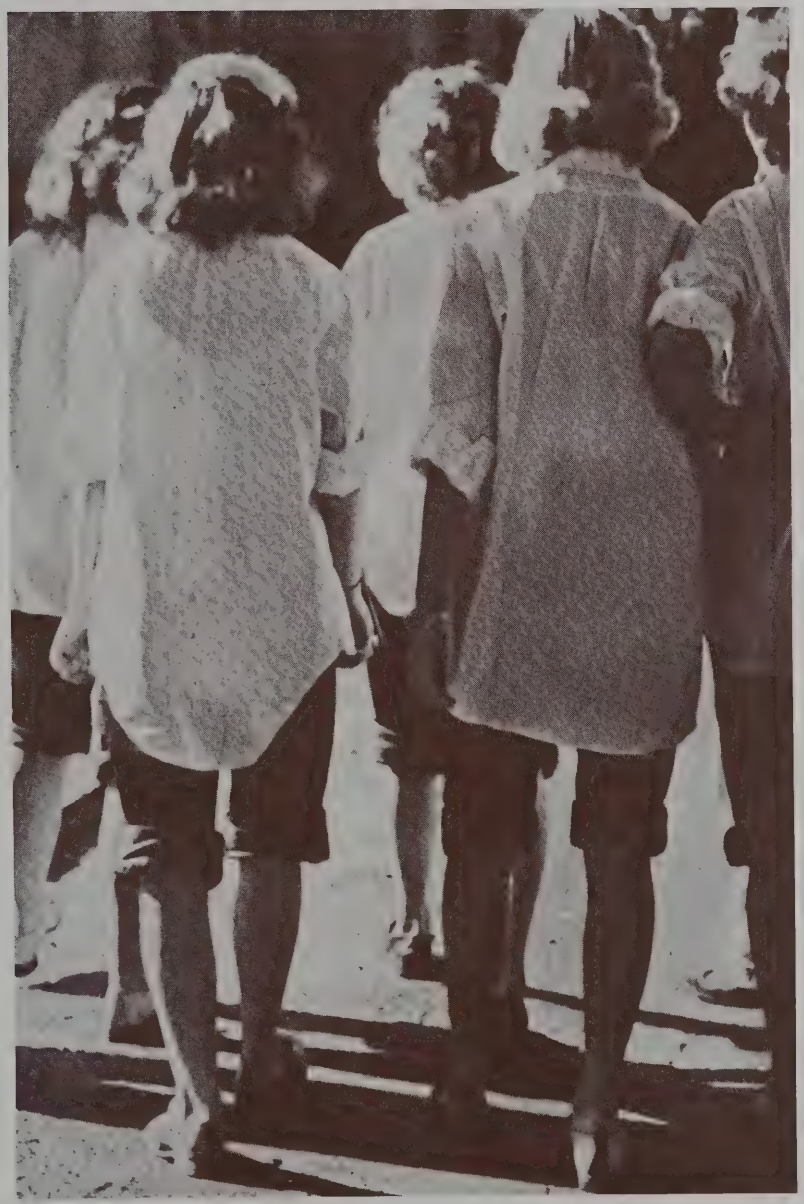
All DeKalb County celebrated on V-J Day, August 14, 1945. Factory whistles blew unending, church bells pealed for hours, firecrackers exploded, shotguns were fired. A large crowd assembled on the Court Square, where the celebration continued pell mell for five hours. There were impromptu parades around the Court Square. During the evening Jay Van Zile organized a band which played near the monument. The Legion displayed colors; a group from the 40 and 8 fired the salute cannon on the Court House lawn. People embraced, and laughed . . . and wept. The happy throng threw confetti, wore crazy hats, blew whistles to add to the carnival atmosphere. All kinds of vehicles joined the parades, horse drawn, tractors, platform trucks, and a large truck from the Auburn Foundry which hauled a number of the celebrating group. Some of the motor vehicles ran out of gasoline before the celebration ended and had to be pushed to the side. A two day celebration followed, with stores, City National Bank, and factories closed.

There were other notable heroes in the forties. Auburn had first rate football, basketball and track teams. The Red Devils were football Conference Champs in 40, 41, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50, undefeated for three seasons. The fans were legion; on Friday nights everyone went to the games.

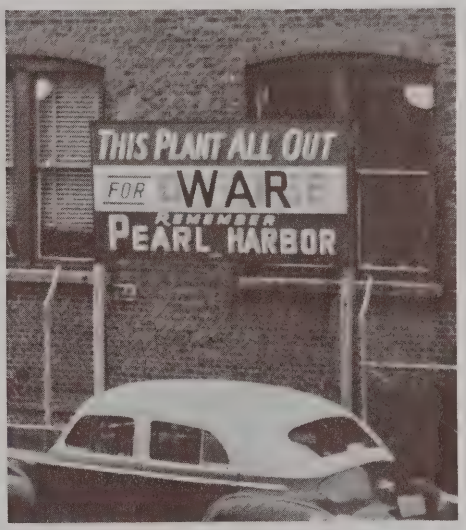
But the team that captured the hearts of fans permanently was the 1948-49 basketball team that kept winning games until they found themselves among the last four teams in the state basketball tournament. While they were edged out by Jasper, the team that became state champions, they came home heroes, and their record still stands as the highest achievment of any DeKalb County team. Viva the heroes!

Athletic Supporters 1943

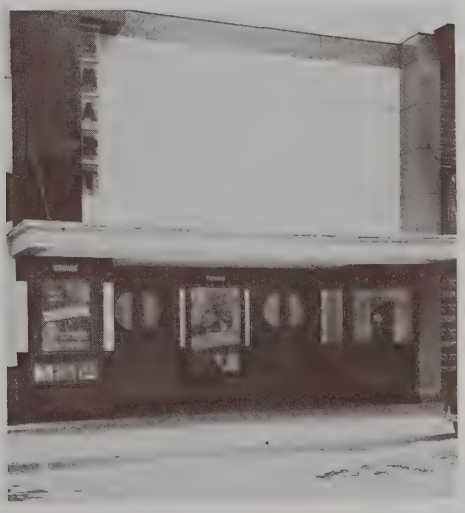
Coupons for gas at O'Days



Our teenagers 1945



Rieke Sign, 1941



Smart Theater 1940

JUNK MAKES
FIGHTING WEAPONS
One old radiator will provide scrap steel needed for seventeen .30 calibre rifles.
One old lawn mower will help make six 3-inch shells.
One useless old tire will provide as much rubber as is used in 12 gas masks.
One old shovel will help make 4 hand grenades.

Scrap Drive, 1942

State Finals, 1949

Thimlar's crew, 1944

Prayer Vigils at Immaculate Conception Church

Coach Young, 1947

Happy Days 1950-1960

Auburn in the fifties reflected happy times, prosperity and confidence. Eager to enjoy life to the fullest, citizens held back-yard barbeques, built homes, churches and schools, went to college in unprecedented numbers, joined social and service organizations. There was a grand comraderie everywhere. Returning veterans became established; they danced, bowled, and played golf with friends. Life was good, full of fun, enthusiasm abounded.

Service clubs were active. The Lions' Club Minstrel shows "brought down the house" with hilarious hometown skits, directed by Hal Hoham. Hal also helped promote and upgrade the Auburn Horse Shows, which became known as the finest in the state. The shows, sponsored by the Lions Club and the Bar None Saddle Club, were enjoyed by young and old, rich and poor. All shared the pleasure of showing or viewing their favorite horse. The profits remained in the community. The Saddle Club built their present building, and improved the fairgrounds and stable facilities. The Lions Club share of the profits went to many community projects such as the sponsorship of the Little League Program at Thomas Memorial Park. The club built the field, fence, bleachers, lights, announcing booth and concession stand, and continued their interest to make the experience outstanding. The first game was June 21, 1952, between the Expressways and Andres Insurance.

In 1959 the Lions also organized a basketball Saturday league for 223 boys in grades three to six. Each team was coached by a former Auburn High School player.

The Jaycees blanketed Auburn with the first "fogging" in 1952, to help rid the area of disease-bearing insects and mosquitoes. DeKalb County had been hard hit in previous years by polio, which had shut down schools, athletic events and the fall fair. Other communities had reported marked relief from the insects and no harm to either bees or birds.

Auburn lost one of its oldest industries, the Auburn Rubber Company, in 1959 by what city officials considered "economic piracy" by the city of Deming, New Mexico. The factory, which employed 350 people, made vinyl and plastic toys, rubber swim goods, stick-on soles, shoe factory soling, and industrial rubber parts. It was first known as the Double Fabric Tire Company, organized by W. H. Willenaar and A. L. Murray in 1910, when it made rubber tires for early autos. Deming, a city of 7,500 citizens had issued bonds for $15,000,000 and the Auburn company was the third acquired under an industrial expansion program. It issued bonds of $4,480,000 for the Auburn deal, giving the stockholders $10 more for each share than its book value. The news of the sale hit the city with terrific impact. Only twenty employees made the Deming move. By the following year however, Cooper Tire and Rubber Company moved into the facility. In just three years it outgrew those buildings and added more manufacturing space, employing about 450 people in Auburn. Cooper makes nearly 3,000 items, for automobiles, appliances, boats and machines.

Tri Kappa spent $3,500 in 1953 to sponsor a kindergarten, which was not in the public school system at that time. Sixty youngsters attended the first year, and paid a tuition fee, which only partially covered costs of salaries, rent, supplies and equipment.

When the GI's came home, it was to build a better world. They wanted good schools, good community life. Building was everywhere: homes in the Walters addition, on the East side, children's addition at the Methodist Church in 1952, a new Presbyterian Education Building in 1955, an Elks Club in 1955, Sander's bowling alley and the McKenney Jr. High in 1957, Immaculate Conception Church and School in 1958, Trinity Lutheran Church and Jehovah's Witnesses erected new buildings in 1959. Rieke, Dana, Ball Brass, Auburn Foundry, and Warner's all added manufacturing space in this period. Indiana Bell Telephone Company broke ground for an $1,800,000 facility in 1960.

City National Bank helped with the financing of the building boom, as well as the great rush to automatic washers and television sets in the mid fifties.

The city sustained drastic economic blows in this period, both of which turned out to have golden linings with improved employment opportunities. The Auburn Foundry was completely destoyed by a disastrous fire in January, 1951. Rebuilding began quickly and operations resumed in September, 1952 in a new foundry of 45,000 sq. ft., smaller than the old plant but with slightly greater melt tonnage. Major expansion projects were added in 1954 and 1959.

Some dizzy fads bubbled in the fifties. Adults, worrying about the cold war and the space race, built backyard bomb shelters and reported sighting mysterious flying saucers. Teenagers jammed dozens of people into cars (forty-eight in an old Chevie was the record.) Boys wore those slicked-back ducktail haircuts, girls swooned over Elvis; the young kids bought Coonskin Davy Crockett hats, and literally everyone swirled and wriggled with the plastic hula hoops.

The fast-changinmg times brought new faces into our homes. Television was eagerly accepted in the area in 1954 when an aerial receiver and studio was erected in Waterloo, and the program reception improved. More and more townspeople stayed home to watch Milton Berle, I Love Lucy, Arthur Godfrey, and Sid Caesar's Show of Shows. Kids found heroes on Gunsmoke, and the Mickey Mouse Club. Teenagers ditched "pop" and dug "rock" on the American Band Stand with such wide variety as "Doggie In The Window" and "Rock Around the Clock." By 1959 the average U.S. family was sitting before the box six hours a day. A new age was dawning.

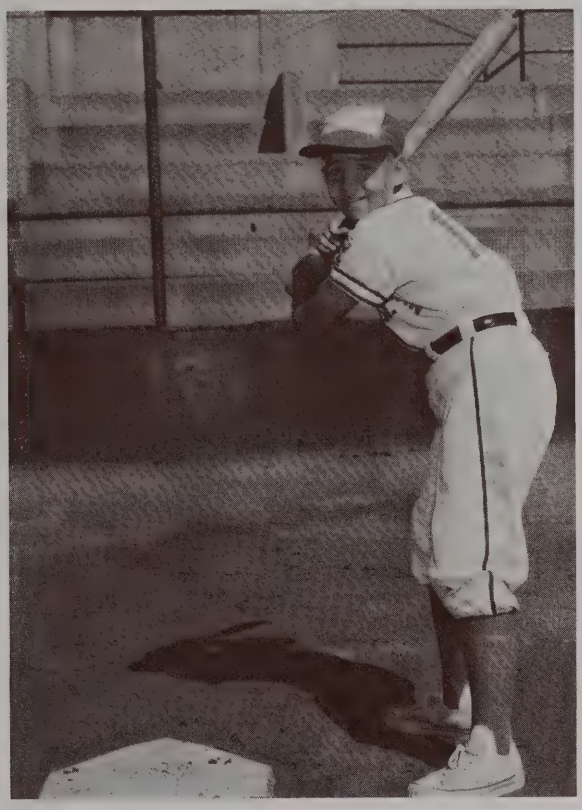
Presbyterian Church, 1953

Auburn News Stand, 1952

Romeiser Drug Store, 1955

Foundry Fire, 1951

Methodist Church
Before Childrens Addition, 1951



Eager Little Leaguer

Bonnell Souder Hospital, 1956

Citizen's Lumber Co., 1956

Hula Hoops, 1959

Presbyterian Church, 1960

Commitments Renewed 1960-1970

"Keep the Faith Baby" was one of those popular lapel buttons the young people wore in America in the sixties. It described the mood of those times — commitment — being part of something that counts.

In this community, with a legacy of great aspirations, these years produced a unique humanitarian experience. It was called "The Miracle of Indiana." It is the story of unfailing American spirit, and proved our citizens had not lost sight of what brought them along.

The skeptics said it couldn't be done. Still, with a county population of less than 29,000, neighbors worked together to build a $2,225,000 hospital, which had all the bills paid by donations when the doors opened January 2, 1964. The idea was first seeded by the Auburn Lions Club in 1955, when they offered $1,500 to engage the services of a professional hospital consultant. The Lions stirred large numbers of people to action, but there were many stumbling blocks, and the hospital idea appeared and disappeared from minds of dedicated persons over and over. Money was a huge problem. To raise even two million dollars by public subscription meant an average donation of $300 by every family in the county. Not possible . . . but a small group of good folks dedicated themselves to the task. The first inkling that the dream could become reality was the pledge of William Willenaar of 1,000 shares of stock worth $230,000.

More followed. Citizens gave and gave. Working together for the hospital, making sacrifices of time and pocketbook made us better neighbors, and gave pride of accomplishment. As Glenn Rieke, chairman of the DeKalb Memorial Hospital Board said at the ground breaking ceremony in 1962: "I am proud to live among neighbors and friends who have been willing to leave this heritage for our children and future generations."

We at City National Bank felt great rewards in helping further to make the community a better place to live, with peace of mind in the knowledge that the services of a splendid hospital are close at hand. The room rates as the hospital opened were set at $17 for a semi-private and $21 for a private room. The "miracle" has required constant nurturings, and grown considerably, but always has been self-supporting.

Community spirit welled up in dozens of different places. It was a time to build. There were a number of crusades as people began to show — vocally and in their pocket that they did care . . . we set records among Indiana small towns.

Citizens continued to elevate their standards and promoted communal interests. In the sixties they build a new elementary school, a five million dollar high school, an airport, an olympic size swimming pool, a $2,700,000 city sewer system, churches, and new parks appeared on sites where the Riley and DeSoto Schools were razed in 1963.

There were technological changes in communications, making the world increasingly smaller. Indiana Bell Telephone Company completed a huge new building in 1961, the beginning of direct distance dialing. WIFF-FM radio station went on the air in 1967. In 1968, due to the failing health of Verne Buchanan, beloved editor for forty-eight years, The Evening Star was sold to the Nixon Newspaper Chain of Wabash, Indiana. The opening of the north section of Interstate 69 in 1965 attracted new businesses. To meet pressure of commerce and industry for more mobility, the county took a big step forward with a $175,000 DeKalb County Airport that had a runway of 3,650 feet and 24 hour public instrument approach (blind landing). This showed great foresight in regard to economic progress, and is among the finest of the 115 public airways in the state.

The Olympic size Community Pool, largest in northeastern Indiana, was opened Memorial Day, 1967, the final ceremony including an unplanned dunking of the board of directors who raised the construction cost of $130,000 by voluntary contributions. The Auburn Jaycees initiated early interest in the pool, and Warner Motive Corporation provided major encouragement when they offered Auburn a portion of their land. Teenagers enthusiastically raised money; all profits from the YMCA Canteen Blackouts (a yearly talent and comedy show directed by Barbara Oren) went to the building fund of the pool in 1966. The Canteen, added to an active YMCA program in 1944, was the major hangout for the high school group. This was "the place" after games and school, where friends, food, gym and swimming were available.

Needs of this facility changed after the building of the new consolidated DeKalb High School in 1967, a five million dollar complex, giving the 1200 students advantages not available in smaller institutions. That year we also became a "bussed" community, as nearly all students used that means to reach the distant school. The community enjoyed the 4300 seat gymnasium and auditorium that holds 600, the lighted athletic field with spaces for baseball, track and football. On October 20 they dedicated the Cecil E. Young Football Field in tribute to the retired coach who served for 35 years and won statewide respect for his competitive teams. In dedicating the new school, Dr. Dale Baughman of Indiana State University said, "If you believe that education ought to open the heart as well as the mind, you will insist upon the kind of instruction that will light up dark places."

Fortunately, Auburn did not have hippies, drugs and riots the larger cities were experiencing in the sixties, although the generation gap was evident here whenever the Vietnam War was discussed. A few years later the war would nearly tear the nation apart.

Throughout the years, Rollie Muhn and friends played Santa Claus for Auburn children as well as orphans of St. Vincent's Villa in Fort Wayne, a 45 year, many dollars and time commitment for Santa Rollie.

Sabin Oral Vaccine Sunday in 1965 was a major scientific advance as 15,000 persons availed themselves of the opportunity to stamp out the dreaded polio disease by ingesting treated sugar cubes provided by the DeKalb Medical Association.

Space exploration of the sixties, with the challenge of putting men on the moon, caught the imagination of the nation. Astronauts became heroes of the space age. July 16, 1969, when Buzz Aldrin planted the American flag on the moon, with the message: "We came in peace for all mankind" was a fantastic momemt in the history of the world. If this could be accomplished, all things technical and scientific were possible.

First Christian Church Dedication, 1961

Inter-State 69
opens North, 1965

Swim Club enjoys new pool, 1967

Pictorial Historian
Kelso Davis

DeKalb High School, 1967

Riley School
torn down, 1963

DeKalb Hospital being built, 1962

Canteen Blackout
Spoofs Elders, 1966

Young Field Dedicated 1967

Old Warner Buildings

The Spirit of
Christmases past

Dear Friends

We at City National have had fun remembering with you in our diamond jubilee year, and sharing our mutual heritage. We listened in amazement to the men describe how a local baseball team defeated the Cincinnati Reds early in the century when national baseball and this bank were both young and struggling ventures. These players came on the train; if the fans couldn't get to the baseball park, the team would come to the fans.

We recalled with some pride the adventurous men, who with true American spirit, fortitude and dreams, produced in their buggy factories those first strange-looking "horseless" carriages which were to shape our town with its unique character. Many businesses here can be traced to these early auto companies and their needs. These machines improved, and transformed America into a mobile nation. Each era added its technological advancement, until now men can be transported even to the moon.

Such is progreass. In essence, banking followed a similar pattern. As the town grew, the bank matured with it. The history of Auburn and the history of the bank are inextricably woven together. Our forefathers started out with a capitalization of $50,000, a rented store, and a special zeal. They knew the flow of money was essential to the life of the community. These men created a bank the townsfolk could count on in good times and bad for business know-how and integrity.

They served diligently. Time passed; the community prospered. Needs changed . . . the town grew. Banking itself grew. In order to provide customers with expanded services to meet today's technology and interests, we built in 1973 a fine new facility, with drive-in banking, easier access and every financial service individuals could wish.

The bank blends the old and the new. Our twenty-five employees have at their finger tips every modern banking convenience, and we insist they offer the kind of interest and service that is an important part of our heritage. We strive for the feeling of an earlier Auburn, where the ideal and the real nearly touched, in matters of kindness, respect and service.

We call ourselves "The Bank With The Answers," and that's what we aim to be: a good bank that knows its customers are entitled to identity, consideration, and an affirmation of life's values.

Thank you for seventy-five years of confidence. We are looking forward to our Centennial Celebration, and increased services as banking develops them. May the year 2002 bring further affirmation from you, our customers, that we've kept the faith of our forefathers and served the people well.

Sincerely,

James H. Carper

James H. Carper
President & Trust Officer

David B. Hines
V.P. Cashier, Assistant Trust Officer

Sharon Menier
Teller

Garnet Dirr
Supervisor-Bookkeeping

Eloise Vachon
Teller

Jameson Carper
Bookkeeping Dept.

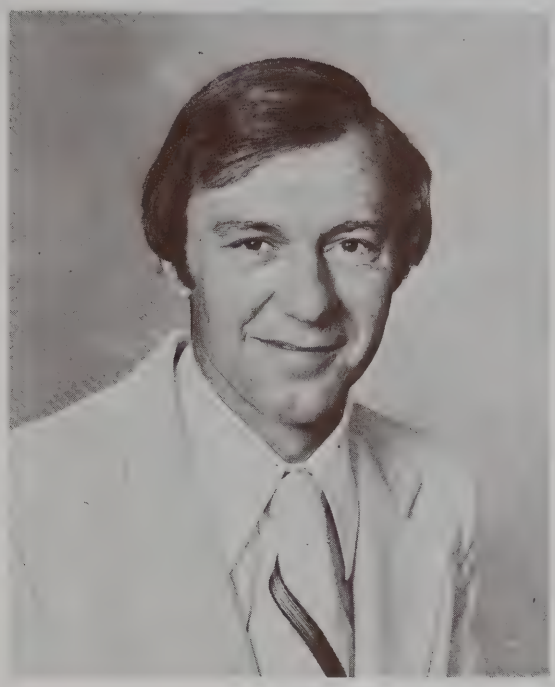
Marjorie Ellis
Secretary

Janet Carper
Bookkeeping

Wanda Fugate
Teller

Sharon Cameron
Teller

Elizabeth A. Weinert
V.P. & Auditor



William D. James
Installment Loan Officer

Roberta Baker
Installment Loan Dept.

Agnes Silberg
Teller

Louis Rinehart
Bookkeeping

Luella Bowers
Installment Loan Dept.

Terry Edmondson
Bookkeeping

Patti Carper
Receptionist

Debra Fugate
Teller

Karen Surfus
Bookkeeping

Mary Crossup
Assistant Cashier

Richard E. Harpster
Installment Loan Officer

Jennifer Bailey
Teller

June Wyss
General Bookkeeping

Jacqueline Wyss
Coinage Dept.

City National Bank Observes 75th Year

Observers have characterized the City National Bank of Auburn as the story of men with a new banking idea, of perserverance and of success.

And, as the bank celebrates its 75th anniversary, it is also the unique story of the growth of a tiny bank (that began with the capitalization of $50,000) to one of resources of $25,800,000.

The jubilee year began August 2, 75 years from the date when a few men gathered in Davenport's Store Building on Main Street to form the bank. "Our forefathers dreamed of a bank the ordinary citizen could count on in good times and bad for business know-how and integrity," said Jim Carper, president. "We have tried to maintain that image, to truly serve the people of DeKalb County. About half our funds are loaned right here within the county," he added.

The official celebration will include a series of newspaper ads which will cover the history of Auburn, and the City National Bank for the past 75 years. The first ad in the series begins in today's issue of the Evening Star. Each full page ad will cover a ten year period and will attempt to bring to life the era and feelings of that time.

The site of the original bank was at the corner of Eighth and Main Streets. Across Main Street stood the Old Court House, with its park and bandstand, which was torn down in 1911 to make room for the present structure. Auburn was a bustling town in 1902; an industrialized community and the center of DeKalb County, which had a population of 25,711.

The bank founders were William H. McIntyre, Timothy J. Knisely, Franklin Davenport, Francis M. Hines, M.D., and Isaac M. Zint. After raising $50,000 they filed with the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D.C. for authority to organize the bank. It was approved.

"These men knew a flow of money was essential to the life of the community," Carper said; "The bank and the community have met heady success and hard times over the years together and survived both with a steady gait."

The bank experienced its best year earning wise in its history in 1976, with a 16 percent increase in earnings over the previous year. Net income in 1976 was $3.20 per share, compared with $2.76 the previous year.

City National created local banking history in 1976 with a 20-1 stock split voted by the directors. This was done to reduce the selling price of a share of stock, and to increase the number of shareholders.

Deposits have peaked sharply since the first of the year, and bank officials see demand for short term credit continuing at a brisk clip. Personal income is expected to rise more than five percent this year, compared with a four percent gain in buying power last year. Economists claim the new tax bill pertaining to business should help secure confidence and encourage business spending.

James Carper has been the president of City National Bank since 1968, when he succeeded Hugh Carper, who died in 1967. Other presidents were (length of term in parenthesis):

— W. H. McIntyre (1902-1907)
— F. M. Hines, M.D. (1907-1931)
— Warren Lige (1931-1936)
— Phillip Carper (1936-1951)
— Hugh Carper (1951-1967)

Window on Ninth St.

By James Kroemer

Congratulations to City National Bank, which yesterday began celebrating its diamond anniversary year. Surviving for 75 years is a singular achievement for any institution, but the City National Bank has done much more than just survive for the past three-quarters of a century.

The bank has grown and change; matured with its home town. In fact, the bank's history is inextricably woven together with the history of Auburn, and that's why I find City National's approach to celebrating its anniversary year so refreshing.

Tuesday's full page advertisement sponsored by the bank was the first in a series of eight that will appear every other week for the rest of the year. The bank commissioned Sigrid Duncan to prepare the series, and asked her to write a series that would put the bank's 75-year history in perspective with the history of Auburn.

Judging from the first installment, the bank made the perfect choice when they selected Sig to write the series. And as is often the case, the story behind the story is very interesting.

Sig told me she realized very early in her research that it would be impossible to write a history that would be just a recitation of names and dates. There were just too many.

Instead, she decided to use the basic dates and names from each decade of the bank's existence as a skeleton for each installment, then flesh each one out with the intangible feelings and attitudes of each era. Sig is the kind of writer who can create an effective mood piece, and her first installment yesterday gave the reader a real sense of what Auburn was like in the first decade of this century, which was also the first decade of City National's existence.

Sig has relied heavily on old records and old newspaper clippings for the facts of her accounts, but to get the feeling and mood of each era, she's relied on interviews with people who remember Auburn as it was back then.

For the first installment, she gathered four elderly gentlemen (who'd rather remain anonymous) at the bank, and they reminisced for a few hours. Sig got it all on tape, and from that long rap session, she had much of the detail for her first installment.

"It was fascinating," she reported. "They all had remarkable memories, and among the four of them were able to give us very accurate information. And when one will tell a story, it would trigger a memory in one of the others."

Jim Carper and Henry Shook sat in on the taping, and later told Sig it was one of the most fascinating things either had ever experienced.

"All four were working men from that period," Sig said, "and what impressed me the most was that all of them felt they had lived here in a marvelous time. They all felt a tremendous loyalty to their employers, and they all felt that a special feeling has carried over in Auburn from those early days. They think people in Auburn care a little more about one another than in other towns."

Sig is currently working on later installments, and while she's getting much of the specific information she needs on later decades, she is still looking for pictures from the 30's, 40's and 50's. If you have pictures of scenes, people and places of Auburn from those decades, contact City National or call Sig at 925-3038. She will return any and all pictures.

The bank is also planning to issue the entire series of eight historical pieces and accompanying pictures in a booklet once the entire series has appeared in print. It promises to be a collector's item worthy of space in anyone's library.

Our Thanks

We wish to thank those who shared their valued photographs
with us to make our history come alive:

Joyce Thimlar - Nancy Derrow

David Hines - Kelso Davis

Zeke Young - Kenneth Schaab

Carol Kruegar - Jodie Butler

Kay Finchum - The Follies

The Saber - YMCA

The Presbyterian Church

First Christian Church

DeKalb High School

Sketches by artist
Brad Conway (ACD Museum)

John Martin Smith Collection

Eckhart Library Collection

Tri-Kappa Collection
of the ACD Museum

The McIntyre Collection
at the ACD Museum

Most especially we thank those wonderful men and women who sat with us in the board room and some privately who recalled so vividly what life was like in those eras. We value this shared time, their enthusiasm about the project and their home town.

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